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HEARTBREAK FOR INDIA AS VIDIT, GUKESH CRASH OUT OF WORLD CUP

Though Vidit Gujrathi and D Gukesh exited in quarters, there is hope for India as two Indians are playing a tie-breaker for a spot in semis

INDIA COME TO 4 IN CHESS'S BIG TICKET EVENT

After an unprecedented four Indians made the quarterfinals of the World Cup, only one will make it to the final four. Vidit and Gukesh were knocked out by Nijat Abasov and Magnus Carlsen, respectively. Gukesh put up a good fight against Carlsen, holding the world's top ranked player to a 59-move draw after losing in the first leg. Vidit was shocked by 69th ranked Abasov

PRAGG-ERIGAI SI KEEP HOPES ALIVE

There will be one Indian in the final four as young stars Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa took their quarterfinal to a tiebreak to be played on Thursday. Erigaisi had won on Tuesday, but Praggnanandhaa hit back in the second leg with a win in 75 moves. The tie-break will be played over two rapid games on Thursday | P15

One

ONE INDIAN IS EXPECTED TO QUALIFY FOR CANDIDATES

₹1.2L crore worth schemes cleared in big infra push

Cabinet nod for e-Bus, skilling and 7 new rail projects; Digital India extended for five years

PM-eBus Sewa	₹57,613 cr
Seven railway projects	₹32,500 cr
Digital India	₹14,903 cr
PM Vishwakarma	₹13,000 cr

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

IN a major push for ease of public travel, the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday cleared seven multi-tracking projects of the Indian Railways.

Additionally, the Cabinet approved the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme under which 10,000 electric buses will be deployed in cities with 3 lakh population, with emphasis on areas that don't have organised bus service. The two schemes put together will cost ₹90,113 crore.

While the e-bus scheme will follow a public-private partnership (PPP) model, the seven railway projects will be fully funded by the Centre. Spread across 35 districts in nine states, the new railway projects are expected to smoothen train operations, reduce congestion and facilitate ease of travelling and transportation. The

projects will increase the existing rail network by 2,339 km and create employment to the tune of seven crore man-days in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The CCEA also cleared the PM Vishwakarma scheme, which PM Modi announced in his Independence Day speech on Tuesday, with a financial outlay of ₹13,000 crore.

The amount will be spent over a period of five years for the benefit of about 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers.

Besides, the Cabinet approved extension of the ambitious Digital India programme for another five years with an outlay of ₹14,903 crore to boost digital initiatives in skilling, cyber security, high performance computing and simplifying technology for the masses, among others.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has appealed to BJP leaders and farmers not to politicise the Cauvery issue. The state government has to go by the advice of its legal experts failing which, it will have to face serious consequences, he said.

Shivakumar's appeal comes in the wake of BJP leaders and farmers demanding that the state government stop releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu with immediate effect.

He said, "Tamil Nadu has sought 27 tmcft of water. We can't decide things as per our wish. The court won't accept it. Recently, Tamil Nadu boycotted the Cauvery Water Management Authority meeting. Those who run the government must think about all aspects. We have to go by the opinion of legal experts. Else, we may have to face serious consequences. Is it prudent to get into a confrontation?"



Stating that the government is committed to protecting the interests of farmers, Shivakumar, who is also Minister for Water Resources, said he had allowed release of water twice to protect crops in the Cauvery basin in the state after he took charge. "With the weak monsoon, the reservoirs in the state's Cauvery basin are getting poor inflow. Even in such

distress, we are with our farmers. We have released water to Tamil Nadu as we have to respect law," Shivakumar said.

On farmers planning to stage protests, he said it is their right and they can also approach courts. Minister for Agriculture N Chaluvarayasaamy said water will be released to Tamil Nadu based on its availability in the state's reservoirs. P4

Rain in HP, downstream Punjab districts flooded

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

EVEN as heavy rains continue to wreak havoc in Himachal Pradesh, neighbouring Punjab is taking a hit. On Wednesday, 68 villages in Punjab were flooded after excess water from Bhakra and Pong dams were released. The catchment areas of Pong Dam on the Beas river and Bhakra-Nangal dam on the Sutlej river are in Himachal and both the dams continue to receive heavy inflow.

At least 50 villages in Gurdaspur district were flooded, as were 18 villages in Ropar district. Officials said 500 people were rescued from Gurdaspur and over 250 from Ropar. Besides, a dozen villages in Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala districts were also impacted.

The Punjab government has sounded a red alert for Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, and Tarn Taran



An aerial view of flooded area due to torrential rain, in Rupnagar, Punjab on Wednesday | A11

districts. The water level at Bhakra-Nangal dam has reached near its optimum of 1,680 feet and more water is likely to be released, which may exacerbate the flood situation.

The Ropar district administration has requested two units of Army and two additional units of the National Disaster Response Force. Four NDRF units are already deployed in flood-affected villages.

Bhakra dam

Bhakra Beas Management Board, which manages the Bhakra and Pong dams, said it will release water in a controlled manner.

South pole

The Chandrayaan 3 mission was expected to be the first to land near the south pole.

SEDIMENT FOUND

UBL beer worth ₹25 cr confiscated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

THE Excise Department here has seized beer worth Rs 25 crore produced by United Breweries Limited (UBL) following reports of some sediment in it. In all, 78,678 beer boxes have been seized from the depots of the factory, retailers and dealers. Revealing this to reporters here on Wednesday, Deputy Commissioner (Excise, Mysuru Rural) A Ravishankar said the department has issued a notice to UBL. Based on the reply, action will be initiated.

He said that a batch of beer brands such as Kingfisher Strong and Kingfisher Ultra Premium produced by UBL at its Nanjangud unit was dispatched to depots and retail outlets on July 15.

"Based on a letter from the department issued on August 2 that some sediment was found in the beer, samples were sent for tests. We had instructed the officers to stop the sale of beer at retail outlets," he said.

Ravishankar said the lab report stated that the beer is not fit for consumption.

Chandrayaan 3's lander separation today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE fifth and final lunar-bound manoeuvre on the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft was carried out on Wednesday morning, bringing it closer to the lunar surface at an orbit of 153km x 163km. The manoeuvre was conducted at Bengaluru-based ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).



ru-based ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

"With this, the lunar-bound manoeuvres are completed. It's time for preparations as the Propulsion Module and the Lander Module gear up for their separate journeys," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). Separation of the lander module from the propulsion module will be done on August 17, it said. P5

BASIC RIGHT

Karkala students protest against bar opposite school

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udipi

IT was a subdued Independence Day celebration for students of Government Model Higher Primary School at Bajagoli in Karkala taluk on Tuesday. For, they staged a protest against the grant of permission to open a bar and restaurant opposite their school, on the occasion.

Despite strong objections from parents and local people, Harish D Sallian, owner of a lodge, obtained a CL-7 licence to open the bar and restaurant in April 2023.

Excise officials told TNIE that they granted the licence based on rules and regulations. They measured the distance be-

tween the gate of the school and the bar and restaurant building. The bar is 102 metres away from the gate. "As per the clause of Karnataka Excise Licences (General Conditions) Rules, 1967, the minimum distance needed for grant of permission is 100 metres," an official said.

But SDMC member Vincent D'Souza, who protested along with parents and students, said the aerial distance between the school and the bar is not even 40 metres. "Earlier, when we got to know that excise officials were about to grant the licence owing to political pressure, we staged a protest," he added.

This Kannada medium school, where English is also a



The Government Model Higher Primary School at Bajagoli in Karkala taluk of Udipi district | EXPRESS

medium of instruction, has 239 students studying in classes from 1 to 7. There are 51 students in LKG and UKG sections. The matter has been brought to the notice of Minister for Women and Child Development Lax-

mi Hebbalkar, he said.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Vidyakumari told TNIE that she will verify whether Nallur Gram Panchayat (the school is under its jurisdiction on State Highway 37) has followed the procedure of passing a resolution before giving the "No Objection Certificate" to the bar owner.

She said that she will send the appeal to cancel the bar licence given by the local people and parents to the Excise Commissioner for action. Only the Excise Commissioner can cancel the bar licence.

Though TNIE tried to contact Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Ban-

Ashoka Univ faculty warn of exodus after prof resigns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE turmoil at the prestigious Ashoka University over its 'hasty' acceptance of the resignation of an assistant professor, snowballed on Wednesday with its economics department writing an open letter warning of faculty exodus if he is not offered his job back immediately.

Prof Sabyasachi Das' recent paper, 'Democratic Backsliding in the World's Largest Democracy' had put him in the eye of a storm. The paper, which is yet to be peer reviewed, suggested that the BJP won "disproportionately" in closely contested seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, especially in states where

it was in power. After the University distanced itself from his work in the wake of the controversy, Das put in his papers.

The economics department accused the governing body of reacting in a manner that "constitutes institutional harassment, curtails academic freedom, and forces scholars to operate in an environment of fear". It demanded that Das be unconditionally offered his position and sought affirmation that the governing body will "play no role in evaluating faculty research". It gave the University a week's time — till August 23 — to take corrective action, failing which faculty members would be unable to "carry forward their teaching obligations".

INCORRECT LANGUAGE AND THEIR ALTERNATIVES

- **Adulteress:** Woman engaged in sexual relations outside of marriage
- **Affair:** Relationship outside of marriage
- **Bastard:** Non-marital child or child whose parents were not married
- **Biological sex/biological male/biological female:** Sex assigned at birth
- **Born a girl/boy:** Assigned female/male at birth
- **Career woman:** Woman
- **Carnal intercourse:** Sexual intercourse

- **Chaste woman:** Woman
- **Child prostitute:** Child who has been trafficked
- **Dutiful wife/faithful wife/good or obedient wife:** Wife
- **Eve-teasing:** Street sexual harassment
- **Fallen woman:** Woman
- **Forcible rape:** Rape
- **Hooker:** Sex worker
- **Housewife:** Homemaker
- **Indian woman/Western woman:** Woman
- **Marriageable age:** A woman who has attained the legal age required to marry
- **Prostitute:** Sex worker
- **Provider/Breadwinner:** Employed or earning
- **Unwed Mother:** Mother